

December 10, 2019 Council Meeting

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia was held on December 10, 2019 in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, at 7:30 PM with Mayor Kathy Lawson presiding. Other Council Members present included Chad Martin, Jennifer Bowles, Jim Woods and Danny Turner. Staff present included City Manager Leon Towarnicki, Assistant City Manager/City Attorney Eric Monday, Clerk of Council Karen Roberts, Finance Director Linda Conover, Police Chief Eddie Cassady, Deputy Police Chief Rob Fincher, and Police Captain Jim Minter.

Mayor Lawson called the meeting to order. Following the Pledge to the American Flag and invocation by Council Member Bowles, Mayor Lawson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Consider adoption of a resolution in support of Second Amendment rights – City Attorney Monday explained that these resolutions have been adopted by 57 localities and considered by many others. Monday read the resolution which was modeled after the resolution adopted by Culpeper, Virginia. Council Member Turner asked if the resolution declares Martinsville a sanctuary city and asked if that could be stated legally. Monday explained that the word “sanctuary” is not used in the resolution; we have to respect the enforceable laws of the United States. Mayor Lawson invited the public to speak. Council Member Bowles requested that City residents should be allowed to speak first.

Charles Cousins of 1203 Top Street said gun control is not about guns but about control. We are the first defense of ourselves and of our personal property.

Joshua Jennings of 1720 Canton Road Danville and a local gun storeowner was present on behalf of his customers who live in the Martinsville city limits. Jennings spoke on a range of arguments in support of gun rights. As Virginians, we should stand firm on the belief that every Virginian has the right to protect their property and their safety.

Melody Cartwright 713 Jefferson Street said at the age of 62 she trained, studied and received her concealed carry license. It took less than 10 minutes to be approved to buy a gun but took longer to receive her concealed carry permit. She feels that everyone should be required to follow those procedures and follow the “letter of the law”. She is not as concerned about legal gun owners but expressed concern about guns owned by the bad people.

Nelson Evans of Mulberry Road and a resident of Martinsville for over 40 years expressed his support. Some say what is happening in Virginia with the Second Amendment resolutions is illegal under the Dillon Rule. He will not debate the rule but says that John Dillon was wrong in what powers are allowed by local government. Nowhere in the constitution does it state that Virginia is a Dillon rule state.

Ural Harris of 217 Stuart Street encourages Council to adopt the resolution. These proposed laws will only harm citizens. Harris said criminals do not obey laws and referenced Chicago’s crime rates even though the state has the strictest laws. Maine has more lenient gun laws and has fewer issues. Assault is an action, not a weapon. The new laws are

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unreasonable. The response time for the police can be lengthy, but the first thing you will do when you feel threatened is call an officer with a gun.

James Hyler of 211 Oakdale Street urged Council not to pass the resolution. He does not feel it is what most residents want. Everyone has liberty; we all want to have freedom until freedoms intrude on someone else's rights. When you live in a democracy, you must respect the rights of others. Gun owners do not need every weapon available to keep them safe. Council must respect the laws.

Sam Wells of 1307 Hillcrest Avenue is a seventh generation Martinsville resident. A while back, three individuals approached his wife on her way to work. His wife had 911 dialed and she had a handgun in her possession. He supports Council's approval for residents' rights to bear arms. Until the police were there to assist his wife, she was able to fend for herself. Sharp Shooters in Roanoke recently assisted them to get their training and concealed carry permit. Wells encouraged Council to adopt the resolution.

Ellen Jesse, 701 Starling Ave spoke against the resolution. She is part of a family of law-abiding gun owners and was raised with a deep respect for the danger of guns. Gun safety is nonpartisan. She finds it confusing that law abiding gun owners are lobbying for the rights of others who are not law abiding to obtain guns.

Tim Craddock of 1054 Westover Drive stated that we do not live in a democracy state. When it comes to firearms killing people, law-abiding owners are not the ones killing people. More people die from hammers or constipation than die from guns. It is our God given right to possess guns.

Jason Pozella of 1010 Mountain Road thanked officers and City staff for serving Martinsville. Pozella is 28 years old with three children. The Second Amendment right was not put into place for hunting. It was imposed for safety of family and possessions. He supports residents' rights to defend what so many men and women have fought for. Where do you draw the line? The devil has his hand on evil people.

Tony Lawson of 2039 Spruce Street has worked closely with law enforcement for years. There is not one person in law enforcement who will tell you that disarming honest people will reduce crime. When you take guns away from honest people, it will not thwart crime. An officer once asked Lawson what he thought was stopping someone from kicking the door in and assaulting him or his family. The answer was not the police; it was that criminal not knowing what was waiting for them on the other side.

Mayor Lawson closed the public comment. Council Member Wood spoke passionately in favor of the resolution referencing four fundamentals and the constitution. Wood no longer owns a gun but feels that it should be a resident's right to own a gun to protect themselves and those around them.

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Council Member Bowles thanked everyone for attending and said that the residents offering their voice inspired her. She apologized for not responding to all texts that she had received but she said that she had read them all and listened to all voice mails. It is her job to listen to all sides and put her personal beliefs aside. In her heart, she does not support any legislation that allows the government to remove guns from her or from others. Bowles said that it is our constitutional right to possess a gun. She has her concealed license to protect herself and her home and she encourages others to do the same. She has not read or seen any legislation stating that it was anyone's intent to confiscate guns and she feels that that false belief is caused by propaganda and lies. Until there is real legislation proposed that is unlawful or unconstitutional, she will not approve the resolution. She respects everyone's opinion but she believes this resolution will not help anything until there is actual legislation to fight against. She will abstain her vote.

Council Member Turner said there is no actual passed legislation but that it is in the process of being written up. The proper thing to do is lobby the general assembly and if unconstitutional legislation comes out then the argument can be made at that time.

Vice Mayor Martin thanked everyone. He believes when evil is around us and we need good people to do something about it. It is unfair to allow someone to fight overseas but not be allowed to protect their home in cases where they may have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Martin's father was in the military so he was taught gun safety at a young age. He supports the resolution.

Mayor Lawson thanked those in attendance, stating that this is her first meeting where there were residents waiting in the hallway. She is a firm believer in the constitution. Lawson said it is her right to possess a gun so she will support the resolution. The resolution is not legally binding but expresses Council and Martinsville City residents' wishes

Council Member Turner made a request to amend the resolution, requesting that it state that the City of Martinsville chooses to be a sanctuary city. Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the Resolution as amended. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the amendment with the following roll call vote: Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Woods, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye; and Council Member Turner; nay. Council Member Bowles abstained. The motion carried 3-1.



**RESOLUTION
IN AFFIRMATION OF THE OATH OF OFFICE
AND
REGARDING A COMMITMENT TO RESPECT, PRESERVE, AND ENFORCE
THE SECOND AMENDMENT (UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION)
AND ART. I, § 13 (VIRGINIA CONSTITUTION)**

WHEREAS the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, § 15.2-1522 provides that every elected City officer, unless otherwise provided by law, on or before the day on which his term of office begins, shall qualify by taking the oath prescribed by § 49-1;

WHEREAS the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, § 49-1 prescribes the Oath of Office of the members of the Council of the City of Martinsville, Virginia, as follows: I do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon me as an elected member of the City Council according to the best of my ability, so help me God;

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States at Amendment II expressly states that a well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed;

WHEREAS the Constitution of Virginia at Article I, § 13 expressly states that a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed;

WHEREAS there is concern that unconstitutional or unlawful legislation, which infringes upon the rights of the citizens to keep and bear arms under the Constitutions of the Commonwealth of Virginia (Article 1, § 13) and the United States (Amendment II), may be introduced in the legislative sessions of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or the United States Congress; and,

WHEREAS there is concern that unconstitutional or unlawful executive and administrative action or enactments, which infringe upon the rights of the citizens under the Constitutions of the Commonwealth of Virginia (Article 1, § 13) and the United States (Amendment II), are being considered by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia and/or the offices and agencies under his control.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED
BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA THAT:**

1. As a body collective, the Council hereby affirms the Oath of Office pursuant to the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, § 49-1 committing to support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to faithfully and impartially discharge all the duties incumbent upon the Council to the best of its ability; and
2. While nothing in this Resolution is intended to declare any intent or effectuate any act, present or prospective, by the Council or any City officer or employee in contravention of law, including but not limited to Va. Code Ann., §15.2-915, this Council nevertheless expresses its commitment by any and all legal means to Respect, Preserve, and Enforce the Second Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and Article 1, § 13 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia to the fullest extent permitted by law; and,
3. The Council express its commitment to oppose unconstitutional and unlawful legislation and proposed restrictions that infringe upon the right of its citizens to keep and bear arms through any and all legal means, as may be expedient, including without limitation by court action.

Adopted this 10th day of December 2019.

Attest:

Karen Roberts, Clerk of Council

At 6:55PM, Mayor Lawson advised Council would go into Closed Session. In accordance with section 2.1-344 (A) Code of Virginia (1950, and as amended) and upon a motion by Council Member Turner seconded by Vice Mayor Martin with the following 5-0 recorded vote: Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Bowles was not present during the vote; Council Member Turner, aye; and Council Member Woods, aye. Council convened in Closed Session to discuss the following matters: (A) Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members, attorneys or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, as authorized by Subsection 7. At the conclusion of Closed Session, each returning member of Council certified that (1) only public business matters exempt from open meeting requirements were discussed in said Closed Session; and (2) only those business matters identified in the motion convening the Closed Session were heard, discussed, or considered during the A motion was made by Council Member Turner; seconded by Council Member Bowles, with the following 5-0 recorded vote in favor to return to Open Session: Mayor Lawson, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; Council Member Woods, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye; and Council Member Turner, aye.

Council returned to regular session at 7:30PM.

Hear a report from Robinson Farmer Cox Associates on the City's FY19 audit – A representative from RFC summarized the auditor's report. The auditor's opinion is that this audit is clean, the financial statements are correct according to principles and standards. He

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discussed a change in fund balance with a net decrease of around \$1million after transfers and insurance recoveries, statements of revenue, expenses and a net increase of around \$2.7million after transfers. The statistical section provides several tables of historical information including the change in fund balance over the past 10 years. There were no notable deficiencies reported and no issues reported in their review of the programs. Mayor Lawson said the City did better than they expected and that is proof that Martinsville is well run.

Conduct a public hearing on the City's consideration of reversion – City Attorney Monday turned the presentation over to Steven Piegrass and Robert Claiborne of Troutman Sanders, LLC who presented a PowerPoint of the reversion studies. Piegrass shared two studies commissioned by the City including the fiscal impact of reversion and the consolidation of school systems. The larger, more complete report is in the works depending if Council votes for reversion. Mayor Lawson opened the floor for public hearing. Former Mayor Gene Teague of 921 Hunting Ridge Road thanked Council for the job they do and for allowing the public to provide input. Teague believes reversion is in the best interest of taxpayers. The City can provide the same services currently provided but with a cost savings to tax payers. All localities who have reverted to a town continue to pay a lower rate than they did as a City. The City is not broke and he feels that it never will be as long as Council makes the decision to revert. While the reversion study is required, the numbers do not model what future Council members and City Managers will do to cut programs or increase revenue. The City has challenges that will continue to make future budgets difficult, including school funding, housing inmates outside the City, etc. The aging housing stock must be addressed also. The City's problems extend beyond the schools that Henry County is open for discussing. Teague believes the County can bring other things to the table and they can further delay revenues that pay back the county for expenses. The County through PSA could go back to a joint water/sewer operation, which could save on average \$1million annually. Reversion is the best method. Change is hard and there will be people who will fight that change.

Former Mayor Council Member Barry Green said in 1980 he served as a City representative on the City Council Merger study committee. After two years of studies, it was concluded that a school consolidation was in the best interest of the entire area but the recommendations were not implemented. 20 years passed and in 2002, he chaired a school system merger study, which included members of the school administrations and school boards. It was concluded that 1. A merged school system will enable our community to continue to offer students a quality education in the most cost effective manner with one administration, one bus system, and purchasing department. 2. While cost is important, quality is the most important issue and the quality of education for all students in both school systems will improve if the systems merge. 3. In a merged system, most students will attend a

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school that is convenient to their home. 4. If the schools do not merge and the local economic conditions remain unstable then residents will have to pay millions more or will have to cut services to support the schools. In 2004, the Henry County School board voted not to proceed with a school consolidation. Consultants outlined two choices, to increase revenue and cut services or revert from a City to a Town. November 2013 Martinsville City Council voted 3-2 not to go forward with reversion. By 2045, the City's population will decline 31% and Henry County's population could decline 41%. The City Manager and the Finance Director have done a remarkable job budgeting each year but they are running out of options. It has been 70 years since AL Philpott, Tom Burge, and J. Frank Wilson studied the feasibility of a Martinsville and Henry County reversion and felt it would benefit citizens of both counties but felt the political climate was not right, Study after study have determined that the reversion would benefit both the County and the City.

Ruth Easley, Commissioner of Revenue said that City leaders have been kicking around the option of a merger since the late 1950s. Easley disputed some of the information provided by Green and by Towarnicki previously. Financial studies are beneficial and they prove what can happen if corrective action is not taken. Thankfully, Council and staff have taken those corrective actions to prevent the City from becoming bankrupt. There are ways to consolidate services with Henry County but she questions whether reversion is still the best option. There is an additional impact in personal property and businesses but those have not been addressed. She respectfully suggests that tonight not be the night to vote. She believes that discussions should be had on consolidation of some services, but not necessarily reversion.

Mayor Lawson closed the hearing. Turner expressed his support stating that he had voted for reversion when he served on Council previously and he would be in favor to make a motion for reversion. Vice Mayor Martin supports the vote for reversion but he does not feel like tonight is the best time. Martin suggested that January would be a better time to give residents adequate time to access the studies. Council Member Wood believes it is imperative that Martinsville City Council come to the table with Henry County, Wood expressed his support for reversion. Council Member Bowles thanked residents for reaching out. Bowles has a strong sense of pride in Martinsville. Reversion has been discussed for decades and the facts have mainly stayed the same. Bowles is in favor of reversion. Lawson thanked former Mayor Green and former Mayor Teague for sharing their thoughts and experiences in the past relating to reversion discussions. Martinsville wants to sit down with Henry County and negotiate. Motion: Council Member Turner made a motion to authorize Troutman Sanders, LLC to prepare and file a petition to become a town. Council Member Woods seconded the motion with the following roll call vote: Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Tuner, aye; Council Member Woods, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; and Mayor Lawson, aye

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Hear an update from Lisa Watkins of the M-HC Chamber of Commerce regarding activities related to the City / C-PEG Small Business Development contract – Lisa Watkins presented a hardcopy update on Chamber activities including small business activities, uptown activities, retail activity and the Start-Up Martinsville program. Watkins asked residents and merchants to be friendly and offer good customer service and to be proud of our community. Council Member Bowles asks that Watkins promote the Start-Up program more using social media.



Small Business Activity
173 Unique Clients Received One-on-One Assistance:

- Licensing and Permitting
- Marketing Strategy
- Social Media Development & Management
- Obtaining Federal Tax ID Number
- State Corporation Commission Registration
- Mentoring & Mentor Coordination
- Business Plans
- Business Plan Assistance
- SWaM Certifications
- Financial Projections & Analysis
- Incentives
- Networking
- Financing
- Business Expansions

Since July 2019

Martinsville Uptown /C-PEG Economic Development Efforts

Social Media Traffic
Last 28 Days: 3,600 Post Engagements
Last 90 Days: 58,000 Post Engagements

Rotating Monthly Uptown Meeting
Last Tuesday of Each Month 5:30PM



2019 UPTOWN MARTINSVILLE FARMERS' MARKET SEASON BY THE NUMBERS

THANK YOU TO ALL VENDOR, CUSTOMERS, AND SPONSORS FOR SUPPORTING THE UPTOWN MARTINSVILLE FARMERS' MARKET!

2,290 Vendors
1,138 Market Vendors
138 EBT Customers
\$3,200+ in EBT funds distributed

Oktoberfest 2019



8,000 Attendees
232 Booths (Sold Out)
220 Vendors

Uptown Bonus Bucks

7 Promotions
\$1900 of Uptown Bonus Bucks Printed
\$890 Redeemed
Additional \$4,000 Spent in Uptown

\$5 Uptown Bonus Buck \$5

Valid at most Uptown Martinsville Restaurant or Retail

COUPON VALID UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2019

Promotion of Uptown Properties



1,827 Photo Buckets
118 Engagements
1,827 Photo Buckets
118 Engagements

Partners:







Results:






More to Come...

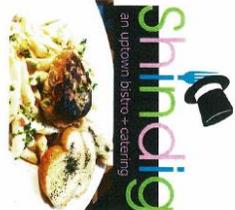
STARTUP Martinsville & Henry County VIRGINIA

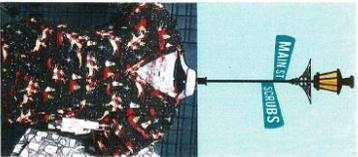
Overall Stats

- 153 Boot Camp Graduates
- 32 Businesses Received \$191,100 Cash and In-kind Grants
- \$1,154,000 in New Capital Investment
- 113 New Jobs
- 85% Success Rate

Martinsville Stats

- 62 Boot Camp Graduates
- 16 Businesses Received \$98,000 Cash and In-kind Grants
- \$463,000 in New Capital Investment
- 52 New Jobs





Consider approval of the City's 2020 Legislative Agenda – City Attorney Monday explained that the Legislative Agenda has been revised after the past few meetings. Council Member

Turner made the motion to adopt the Legislative Agenda as presented. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.



The City of Martinsville appreciates the efforts its legislators undertake at both the state and federal level on behalf of its citizens. Listed below are the City's priorities requested of its legislative delegation in 2020.

Virginia General Assembly

Transportation

1. In the short term, upgrade those portions of Route 220 overlaying I-73 to interstate standards. Any construction or upgrades to the I-73 corridor should begin on those sections passing through Henry County.
2. Continue to place priority on Route 58 improvements, particularly the section between Stuart and Hillsville, Virginia.
3. Increase VDOT funding for road construction and repaving.

Education

1. City Council endorses the concept asserted by Sen. Bill Stanley that the Virginia Constitution and United States Supreme Court precedent requires statewide parity in state funding for school construction, maintenance and operations.
2. City Council endorses the agenda proposed by the Martinsville City School System and also endorses the educational priorities adopted by Henry County, on behalf of its school system.
3. Oppose the imposition of unaided education mandates and in the event of revenue cuts by the Commonwealth opposes targeted cuts by the Commonwealth, instead preferring local decision making authority on where to make any such cuts.
4. Recognizing its potential to promote economic development within our community and region, continue support for the development and funding of the New College Institute in its current location in Uptown Martinsville; urge that any funding reductions to New College Institute, if considered, be minimized to the greatest extent possible; and support all partnership initiatives by The New College Institute with other institutions of higher learning.
5. Request the Commonwealth to fully fund the expenditures imposed upon local school systems by implementing the Standards of Quality.
6. Encourage the Commonwealth to continue or increase the current levels of financial support provided to Patrick Henry Community College.
7. Request the Commonwealth to provide incentives for consolidation of school systems.

Economic Development

1. Maintain current levels of funding for economic development incentives, including but not limited to the Governor's Opportunity Fund.
2. Enhance the authority granted to localities to address and eliminate blighted properties, and the formation of interstate compacts to allow expedited recourse against out-of-state property owners.
3. Increase funding levels for the Virginia Museum of Natural History.
4. Request enhanced state and federal financial assistance for localities which exceed the average state unemployment rate by 150% for a period of five consecutive years.
5. Support continued tourism awareness initiatives in the Martinsville-Henry County region.

6. Expand local authority to designate Enterprise Zones and establish incentives.
7. Oppose efforts by Henry County PSA to reopen the Lower Smith River Wastewater Treatment Plant, absent a regional study concluding that such is in the best interests of Martinsville-Henry County taxpayers, customer base, economic needs and state environmental policy.
8. Expand grants and resources available to fiscally stressed localities, and to business development entities in such localities, to aid in the encouragement or development of small and entrepreneurial businesses.
9. Support the Virginia Grocery Investment Fund, as a public-private initiative to improve nutrition and access to quality food, and enhance economic development by encouraging the development of grocery stores in neighborhoods where none exist.

Governance

1. Adopt the recommendations of the Virginia Commission on Local Government in its 2018 Annexation Moratorium Study, and urge the General Assembly to enact those recommendations in the 2019 Session.
2. Amend Code of Virginia 51.1-155.2 to allow Constitutional Offices, abolished by reversion of any city to town status, to take early VRS retirement, free of penalty.
3. Urge the General Assembly to conform the state tax code to the 2018 changes in the Federal income tax code.
4. Require full funding for HB 599 funds, in fulfillment of the Commonwealth's commitment to cities in return for their acquiescence in the annexation moratorium.
5. Require that the Commonwealth fully fund its obligations to the Virginia Retirement System, and refrain from borrowing from VRS funds.
6. Request the elimination of "local aid to the Commonwealth" in the state budget; local aid artificially inflates state revenues by shifting responsibility for cuts in vital services onto localities.
7. Elimination of all unfunded mandates from the Commonwealth to localities.
8. Oppose any elimination or alteration of local revenue streams, and specifically oppose any amendment to the current manner in which the Business Occupation and Licensing Tax and the Machinery and Tools Tax are levied, unless a replacement revenue stream, not subject to biennial appropriation, is guaranteed by the Commonwealth.
9. Preserve intact local authority to regulate zoning, land use, and regulation of the installation of wireless communication equipment.
10. Request at a minimum, level funding for operational requirements of the Henry-Martinsville Department of Social Services.
11. Request that the General Assembly leaves intact the fire programs fund and the rescue squad assistance funds and not use these funds as a way to balance the state budget.
12. Request that the Commonwealth fully fund its obligations to constitutional officers.
13. Oppose any attempt to curtail the doctrine of sovereign immunity for localities.
14. Oppose any attempt to permit collective bargaining for state and local government employees.
15. Oppose any amendment of the existing burden of proof or process in local tax appeals cases.
16. Request authority to refund erroneously paid taxes at an interest rate which differs from that imposed on delinquencies, and to refund taxes erroneously paid through the fault of the taxpayer at no interest.
17. Support VML's endorsement of a JLARC study of assigning a proportional share of lottery sales revenue to the localities generating such sales.
18. Require the Commonwealth to fund 100% of the per-diem costs of housing state inmates in local jails.
19. Support all state efforts to provide aid and support services to fiscally stressed localities, but oppose any attempts to interfere with localities' right to solve their own financial problems locally.

20. Support the alteration of award criteria in the "REACH Virginia" and all other VHDA programs to a per-capita income-based model.

United States Congress

1. Request the addition of the urban center of micropolitan statistical areas to the eligibility list of "Entitlement Cities."
2. Oppose any effort to impose additional taxation or regulation of electrical power generation by coal or natural gas.
3. Urge the Federal Highway Commission to adopt the CTB's designated route for I-73, or alternatively to preserve the current record of decision in the event the CTB's route is rejected.
4. In the short term, upgrade those portions of Route 220 overlaying I-73 to interstate standards.
5. Request \$3.72M in funds for the redevelopment of brownfields extending from the former American Furniture and Sara Lee sites, along Aaron Street, to Rives Road.
6. Request \$6.25M in funds for the elimination and redevelopment of blighted areas in the city.
7. Request legislation to provide special federal incentives to businesses locating in regions which have experienced job losses in excess of 5% of the total workforce and/or declines in median incomes since the adoption of NAFTA, WTO or GATT. Target such areas for increased federal funding in education or workforce retraining.
8. Extend high speed broadband service throughout southern Virginia.
9. Request enhanced state and federal financial assistance for localities which exceed the average state unemployment rate by 150% for a period of five consecutive years.
10. Oppose the elimination or reduction of the federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

Staff Designations

City Council empowers the following staff members to speak on its behalf and in its best interests to the Virginia General Assembly and United States Congress, its members and committees:

- City Attorney Eric Monday
- City Manager Leon Towarnicki
- Other department heads as appointed by the City Manager

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Consider approval of projects listed for the City's 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) list – Mayor Lawson and City Manager Towarnicki detailed four changes made from the previous meeting. Council Member Bowles made a motion to approve the CEDS list. Council Member Turner seconded the motion with the following roll call vote: Council Member Tuner, aye; Vice Mayor Martin, aye; Council Member Woods, aye; Council Member Bowles, aye; and Mayor Lawson, aye.

Revitalization of Uptown Business District--City of Martinsville	1/III	Incentivize small businesses (interior makeover/elevator)	EDA	\$900,000	\$900,000	Positive	80
Revitalization of Uptown Business District--City of Martinsville	1/II	Construct/ retrofit condos in Uptown	EDA	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	Positive	15
			DHCD	\$300,000			
			VHDA	\$500,000			
			City	\$200,000			
Neighborhood Revitalization Project--West End/Pine Hall Rd Neighborhood--Martinsville	1/IV	Housing rehab; creation of community space	CDBG	\$1,000,000	\$1,250,000	Positive	Indirect
			Local	\$250,000			
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District--City of Martinsville	1/II	Purchase blighted properties on Starling Avenue and adaptively reuse	HUD/NSP	\$700,000	\$1,000,000	Positive	20/Indirect
			HTC	\$300,000			
Southside Community Park Upgrading--City of Martinsville	1/III	Upgrade existing four (4) fields to accommodate youth and collegiate softball and baseball tournaments. This would include new lighting where necessary, upgrade concession stand and new sports surfaces.	DCR	\$200,000	\$3,000,000	Positive	N/A
			EDA	\$600,000			
			ARC	\$150,000			
			VTC	\$750,000			
			Other	\$1,300,000			
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District--City of Martinsville	1/IV	Purchase blighted properties, prepare site for development (Draper - West Church Street) - City of Martinsville	Brownfield	\$400,000	\$825,000	Unknown	100/Indirect
			EDA	\$325,000			
			City	\$100,000			
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District--City of Martinsville	1/III	Rives Road Site Development- full site development including A & E, site grading	EDA	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	Positive	400
Community Development Projects--City of Martinsville	1/III	Further develop lots- at Clearview Business Park to prepare for companies- Parcels 2 & 5 Parcels 2 & 4	EDA	\$750,000	\$750,000	Positive	200+

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Community Development Project -	4/I	Adaptive reuse of historic building on Fayette Street -	VHDA	\$800,000	\$3,800,000	Positive	400
CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central		Paradise Inn and lots surrounding it.	EDA	\$1,000,000			
Business District--City of			CDBG	\$1,000,000			
Martinsville			Grants	\$1,000,000			
Community Development Project	1/IV	Recruit manufacturers of Clean Energy Components to	EDA	\$100,000	\$100,000	Positive	Indirect
City of Martinsville		Martinsville Area and Enterprise Zone					
Community Development Project -	1/III	Upgrade, widen, and landscape Beaver Street from	MAP-21	\$800,000	\$850,000	Positive	Indirect
CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central		Fayette Street to Memorial Blvd - City of Martinsville	VHDA	\$50,000			
Business District--City of							
Martinsville							
Community Development Project -	1/I	Prepare City-owned site at corner of Fayette & Beaver Sts	EDA	\$300,000	\$3,500,000	Positive	Indirect
CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central		for residential, educational or commercial development -	Local	\$200,000			
Business District--City of		Martinsville Area and Central Business District	CDBG	\$1,000,000			
Martinsville			Grants	\$2,000,000			

Community Development Project -	1/II	Write arts & cultural plan for Arts & Cultural District	NEA	\$25,000	\$82,000	Positive	Indirect
CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central			City	\$25,000			
Business District--City of			ARC	\$32,000			
Martinsville							
Community Development Project -	1/II	Enhance Fayette Area Business District facades/greenscape	CDBG	\$1,000,000	\$2,045,000	Positive	Indirect
CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central		economic revitalization - Fayette Street from Moss Street to	Local	\$1,000,000			
Business District--City of		Memorial Blvd. Planning stipend for Citizens Design - CIRD	CIRD	\$35,000			
Martinsville			Match - Ink	\$10,000			
Community Development Project -	1/IV	Purchase blighted properties - prepare site for redevelop-	Brownfield	\$900,000	\$1,900,000	Unknown	150 - Indirect
CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central		ment (202 Cleveland Avenue) - City of Martinsville	EDA	\$500,000			
Business District--City of			City	\$500,000			
Martinsville							

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Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District--City of Martinsville	1/III	Work with partners to develop an amphitheater on Depot Street	NEA ARC	\$50,000 \$50,000	\$100,000	Positive	5/Indirect
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District--City of Martinsville	1/III	Acquire and redevelop properties along commercial corridor for reuse	ARC CDBG EDA	\$250,000 \$2,000,000 \$1,000,000	\$3,250,000	Positive	50
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District--City of Martinsville	1/IV	Rivers Theatre renovations Develop new (or redevelop existing) location in Uptown Martinsville to serve as community music venue.	IRF ARC HTC	\$600,000 \$200,000 \$300,000	\$1,100,000	Positive	5/Indirect
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District--City of Martinsville	1/III	Commonwealth Corridor Enhancement & Pedestrian linkages to Uptown & Fayette Street	VDOT CDBG	\$1,000,000 \$500,000	\$1,500,000	Positive	Indirect
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District--City of Martinsville	1/III	Purchase of West Church Street and/or Fayette Street pro complete feasibility study, adaptive reuse	IRF CDBG	\$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,000,000	Positive	20/Indirect
Community Development Project - CDBG - Martinsville Area & Central Business District--City of Martinsville	1/III	Purchase of Main Street property, complete feasibility study, adaptive reuse	IRF CDBG	\$500,000 \$500,000	\$1,000,000	Positive	20/Indirect
MINet Fiber Optic Expansion-- City of Martinsville	1/III	Citywide expansion of MINet Martinsville fiber optic system to reach businesses and homes	EDA Other Local	\$2,000,000 \$11,000,000 \$7,500,000	\$20,500,000	NA	NA
Community Development Project - Hooker Field Upgrades-- City of Martinsville	1/III	Upgrades to the concession, seating, and restroom areas at Hooker Field - covered seating, ADA compliant restrooms expanded press box/concession/office space	ARC DRC OTHER	\$200,000 \$500,000 \$1,000,000	\$1,700,000	Positive	N/A
Virginia Museum of Natural History City of Martinsville	1/II	Construct Outdoor Education Pavilion in rear of VMNH, to include exhibits interpreting eastern North American forest ecology	EDA DCR Local	\$50,000 \$50,000 \$50,000	\$150,000	Positive	NA
Wilson Park Upgrading-- City of Martinsville	1/IV	Connection of outdoor education pavilion in rear of VMNH with a bridge, crossing over Oakdale Avenue, along with a 1,000 foot canopy loop into the grand old trees in the park.	EDA ARC Other	\$600,000 \$800,000 \$600,000	\$2,000,000	Positive	NA
Community Parks Upgrading-- City of Martinsville	1/IV	Upgrade nine (9) existing parks (Baldwin, Beaver Creek, Jackson Street, West End, J. Russel Mason, Chatham Heights Cole & Carol St, Victor A. Lester, Spruce St.) to improve accessibility and safety. This would include new lighting where necessary, concession stands, age-appropriate playground equipment and new playing surfaces.	DCR ARC EDA Local	\$200,000 \$200,000 \$300,000 \$800,000	\$1,500,000	Positive	NA

Consider approval of a refund resulting from payment of 2019 statutory business personal property assessment prior to assessment adjustment – Commissioner of Revenue Easley explained the need for the refund. Council Member Turner made a motion to approve the refund. Vice Mayor Martin seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

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Recognize City Employees who are eligible for Service Awards for the period October 1 – December 31, 2019 – City Manager Towarnicki shared names of those employees who received milestone service and thanked them for their years of service to the City.

**SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS
SECOND QUARTER- FISCAL YEAR 19-20
FOR THE PERIOD OF OCTOBER 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Name	Department	Years of Service
GORDAN ROBERTSON	WATER IMPOUNDING and FILTRATIO	15
PAMELA SHOEMAKER	COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE	25
RANDY GREGORY	PUBLIC WORKS	30
TERRY MORTON	CIRCUIT COURT	40

Consider approval of consent agenda – Council Member Woods made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Council Member Bowles seconded the motion with all Council Members voting in favor.

BUDGET ADDITIONS FOR 12/10/19				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
BUDGET ADDITIONS				
<u>FY2020</u>				
General Fund:				
01101917	442401	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - PD		7,751
01311085	506078	Police Dept - State Asset Forfeitures	7,751	
01101917	442402	Categorical Other State - Confiscated Assets - CA		237
01221082	506105	Comm Atty - State Asset Forfeitures	237	
		Forfeited assets from Commonwealth		
Total General Fund:			7,988	7,988

BUDGET ADDITIONS - SCHOOL TRANSFER & APPROPRIATION				
12/10/2019				
ORG	OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
BUDGET ADDITIONS				
<u>FY20</u>				
General Fund:				
01103938	462101	Contribution from Fund Balance		123,895
01931255	509290	Transfer to School Capital	123,895	
		Transfer of remaining funds returned from FY19 to General Fund Balance		
Total General Fund:			123,895	123,895
Capital Reserve Fund:				
16103937	451590	Transfer from General Fund		123,895
16579369	508209	School Capital Projects	123,895	
		Transfer of remaining funds returned from FY19 to General Fund Balance		
Total General Fund:			123,895	123,895

Appropriation Request					
BUDGET ADDITIONS					
ORG	JECT	OB	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	T CREDI
<u>FY20</u>					
<u>SCHOOL FUND</u>					
		40			90,227
18101917	2022		Basic Aid		
		40			
18101917	2072		Gifted Education SOQ		771
		40			
18101917	2082		Prev/Inter/Remed		6,496
		40			
18101917	2122		Special Education SOQ		9,721
		40			
18101917	2142		Textbook Payments		1,584
		40			
18101917	2172		Vocational Education SOQ		2,375
		40			
18101917	2212		Social Security		4,939
		40			10,917
18101917	2232		Teacher Retirement		
		40			
18101917	2412		Group Life		330
		40			
18101917	2652		At Risk		9,935
		40			
18101917	3092		ESL		-7,936
		40			
18101917	4002		Other State Funds		4,433
		56			
80008200	1133		Technical SandW	30,000	
		56			
80008200	2100		Social Security	1,860	
		56			
80008200	2150		Medicare FICA	435	
		56			
80008200	2220		Retirement Prof Hybrid	4,704	
		56			
80008200	2300		Group Medical	5,076	
		56			
80008200	2400		State Life	393	
		56			
80008200	2521		VLDP Prof	71	
		56			
80008200	2700		Workers Comp	81	
		56			
80008200	2750		RHCC	360	
		56			
80002130	1133		Technical SandW	32,000	
		56			
80002130	2100		Social Security	1,984	
		56			
80002130	2150		Medicare FICA	464	
		56			
80002130	2700		Workers Comp	96	
		56			
80002120	1660		Employee Bonuses	5,000	
		56			
80002120	2100		Social Security	310	
		56			
80002120	2150		Medicare FICA	73	
		56			
80002120	2700		Workers Comp	14	
		56			
80002220	1131		Licensed School Nurse SandW	975	
		56			
80002220	2100		Social Security	60	
		56			
80002220	2150		Medicare FICA	14	

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80002220	2220	56	Retirement Prof Hybrid	153	
80002220	2400	56	State Life	2	
80002220	2521	56	VLDP Prof	3	
80002220	2700	56	Workers Comp	12	
80002220	2750	56	RHCC	2	
71001100	3100	56	Part Time SandW	14,500	
75101100	5503	56	Travel	489	
75101100	5800	56	Misc	3,048	
75101100	6000	56	Materials and Supplies	12,179	
52001100	3200	56	Purchased Services Instructional	19,434	
Budget adjustments due to increased enrollment					
(Increase in ADM)					
18103919	9904	48	Private Grants - Harvest		146,180
81621310	1120	56	Support Staff - Instructional SandW	15,996	
81621310	2100	56	Support Staff - Social Security	825	
81621310	2150	56	Support Staff - Medicare	231	
81621310	3000	56	Support Staff - Purchased Services	8,820	
81621310	3142	56	Support Staff - Professional Development	32,436	
81621310	5503	56	Support Staff - Travel	29,400	
81621310	6013	56	Support Staff - Instructional Materials	10,664	
81631310	2100	56	Support Staff - Social Security	549	
81631310	2150	56	Support Staff - Medicare	155	
81631310	3000	56	Support Staff - Purchased Services	5,880	
81631310	3142	56	Support Staff - Professional Development	21,624	
81631310	5503	56	Support Staff - Travel	19,600	
Harvest Grant appropriation					
18103919	9904	48	Donations/Contributions/Gifts		44,216
85001009	1300	56	Part-time SandW	25,282	
85001009	2100	56	Social Security	1,567	
85001009	2150	56	Medicare	367	
85001009	3000	56	Purchased Services	9,000	
85001009	6056	56	Non-Cap Equipment	8,000	
UVA Telemedicine					
Total School Fund:				324,188	324,188
School Federal Programs Fund:					
21102926	1008	40	TITLE 1A		1,107,176

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21601601	56 1120	INSTR SandW	333,767
21601601	56 1151	AIDES SandW	16,884
21601601	56 1620	SUPPORT STAFF SandW	13,476
21601601	56 2100	SOC SEC	22,576
21601601	56 2150	MED FICA	5,280
21601601	56 2220	HYBRID PRO	54,982
21601601	56 2300	GROUP MED	41,088
21601601	56 2400	STATE LIFE	4,594
21601601	56 2520	LONG TERM	278
21601601	56 2521	VLDP PROF	842
21601601	56 2750	RHCC	4,208
21601601	56 6040	TECH ONLIN	19,650
21601604	56 1120	INSTR SandW	144,363
21601604	56 1620	SUP SandW	13,476
21601604	56 2100	SOC SEC	9,786
21601604	56 2150	MED FICA	2,289
21601604	56 2220	HYBRID PRO	22,636
21601604	56 2300	GROUP MED	15,228
21601604	56 2400	STATE LIFE	1,891
21601604	56 2520	LONG TERM	70
21601604	56 2521	VLDP PROF	347
21601604	56 2750	RHCC	1,732
21601605	56 3000	PURCHSERV	3,899
21601605	56 6017	SUBSCRIPTS	535
21601606	56 1120	INSTR SandW	148,288
21601606	56 1620	SUP SandW	1,500
21601606	56 2100	SOC SEC	9,287
21601606	56 2150	MED FICA	2,172
21601606	56 2220	HYBRID PRO	23,252
21601606	56 2300	GROUP MED	15,228
21601606	56 2400	STATE LIFE	1,943
21601606	56 2520	LONG TERM	104
21601606	56 2521	VLDP PROF	356
21601606	56 2750	RHCC	1,779
21601608	56 1120	INSTR SandW	33,015
21601608	56 1520	SUBS SandW	7,636
21601608	56 2100	SOC SEC	2,047

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21601608	56 2150	MED FICA	479	
21601608	56 2210	RETIREMENT	5,177	
21601608	56 2300	GROUP MED	1,692	
21601608	56 2400	STATE LIFE	432	
21601608	56 2520	LONG TERM	12	
21601608	56 2521	VLDP PROF	79	
21601608	56 2750	RHCC	396	
21601608	56 3000	PURCHSERV	4,434	
21601608	56 6013	INSTR MAT	70,086	
21601609	56 1150	CLER SandW	32,453	
21601609	56 2100	SOC SEC	2,012	
21601609	56 2150	MED FICA	471	
21601609	56 2210	RETIREMENT	5,089	
21601609	56 2300	GROUP MED	3,046	
21601609	56 2400	STATE LIFE	425	
21601609	56 2520	LONG TERM	20	
21601609	56 2750	RHCC	389	
21102926	43 6708	TITLE 2A		131,3
21611605	56 6013	INSTR MAT	783	93
21611607	56 6000	MAT SUPP	408	
21611608	56 1620	SUP SandW	1,311	
21611608	56 1660	EMP BONUS	112,493	
21611608	56 2100	SOC SEC	6,975	
21611608	56 2150	MED FICA	1,631	
21611608	56 3000	PURCHSERV	6,934	
21611608	56 6000	MAT SUPP	48	
21611608	56 6013	INSTR MAT	810	
21102926	43 6580	TITLE 3A		12,98
21631664	56 1120	INSTR SandW	5,328	0
21631664	56 2100	SOC SEC	740	
21631664	56 3000	PURCHSERV	2,828	
21631664	56 5503	TRAVEL	3,066	
21631664	56 6000	MAT SUPP	218	
21631664	56 6013	INST MAT	800	
21102926	43 5808	TITLE 4BB		39,08
21641608	56 1660	EMP BONUS	2,960	5
21641608	56 2100	SOC SEC	238	

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21641608	56 3142	PROF DEV	34,264	
21641608	56 6013	INSTR MAT	1,623	
21102926	42 0620	TITLE 4 SUP		80,679
21681608	56 1120	INSTR SandW	30,772	
21681608	56 1151	AIDES SandW	32,000	
21681608	56 2100	SOC SEC	11,838	
21681608	56 3142	PROF DEV	6,069	
21102926	40 2708	TITLE 6B 20		566,974
21651621	56 1120	INSTR SandW	45,867	
21651621	56 1151	AIDES SandW	85,614	
21651621	56 2100	SOC SEC	8,152	
21651621	56 2150	MED FICA	1,906	
21651621	56 2210	RETIREMENT	20,616	
21651621	56 2300	GROUP MED	25,380	
21651621	56 2400	STATE LIFE	1,722	
21651621	56 2520	LONG TERM	139	
21651621	56 2750	RHCC	1,578	
21651622	56 1120	INSTR SandW	43,080	
21651622	56 1151	AIDES SandW	16,884	
21651622	56 2100	SOC SEC	3,718	
21651622	56 2150	MED FICA	869	
21651622	56 2210	RETIREMENT	9,402	
21651622	56 2300	GROUP MED	10,152	
21651622	56 2400	STATE LIFE	786	
21651622	56 2520	LONG TERM	35	
21651622	56 2750	RHCC	720	
21651623	56 1300	PT SandW	9,900	
21651623	56 2100	SOC SEC	758	
21651624	56 1151	AIDES SandW	17,886	
21651624	56 2100	SOC SEC	1,109	
21651624	56 2150	MED FICA	259	
21651624	56 2210	RETIREMENT	2,805	
21651624	56 2400	STATE LIFE	234	
21651624	56 2520	LONG TERM	35	
21651624	56 2750	RHCC	215	
21651625	56 1151	AIDES SandW	53,844	
21651625	56 2100	SOC SEC	3,338	

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21651625	56 2150	MED FICA	781	
21651625	56 2210	RETIREMENT	2,867	
21651625	56 2220	HYBRID PRO	5,576	
21651625	56 2300	GROUP MED	15,228	
21651625	56 2400	STATE LIFE	705	
21651625	56 2520	LONG TERM	104	
21651625	56 2521	VLDP PROF	85	
21651625	56 2750	RHCC	646	
21651627	56 1120	INSTR SandW	43,080	
21651627	56 1151	AIDES SandW	35,711	
21651627	56 2100	SOC SEC	4,772	
21651627	56 2150	MED FICA	1,116	
21651627	56 2210	RETIREMENT	12,070	
21651627	56 2300	GROUP MED	15,228	
21651627	56 2400	STATE LIFE	1,008	
21651627	56 2520	LONG TERM	70	
21651627	56 2750	RHCC	924	
21651628	56 3000	PURCHSERV	15,000	
21651628	56 5503	TRAVEL	5,000	
21651628	56 6013	INSTR MAT	20,000	
21651628	56 6056	NON CAP EQ	20,000	
21102926	41 7308	TITLE 6BPS		7,044
21661622	56 1120	INSTR SandW	2,690	
21661622	56 2100	SOC SEC	383	
21661622	56 3000	PURCHSERV	2,487	
21661622	56 6013	INSTR MAT	1,484	
21102926	40 4808	PERKINS		69,612
21672607	56 3000	PURCHASED SERVICES	31,480	
21672607	56 5503	TRAVEL	6,500	
21672607	56 5800	MISC EXP	1,001	
21672607	56 6056	NON CAP EQ	30,631	
Appropriate Title funds as approved by Federal Govt.				
Total School Federal Programs Fund:			2,014,943	2,014,943

Business from the Floor – Patrick Wright of Spruce Street attended dressed as Santa Clause and wished Martinsville residents a Merry Christmas. Wright said he hopes to find employment as Santa this year. Alexis Lee of Sellers Street thanked Council for taking on several tough issues tonight. Lee asked about a canopy from the park to the museum that

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was mentioned at a previous meeting. Mayor Lawson confirmed that was still listed on the CEDS list. Lee expressed concern about illegal drug use in a City park.

Comments by Members of City Council – Council Member Turner wished residents a Merry Christmas. Council Member Woods wished residents a Merry Christmas. Woods Congratulated the Martinsville Robotics team who represented Martinsville well. Council Member Bowles wished residents a Happy Holiday. She thanked Council Member Turner for attending the New Heights event and for others who showed support. Vice Mayor Martin wished residents Happy Holidays and thanked the former City Mayors for speaking and sharing their wisdom. Martin thanked residents for sharing their thoughts. Mayor Lawson apologized for not responding to everyone who contacted her but all opinions were read and considered. Lawson thanked residents for their input. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Thank you to City employees for jobs well done, they make Council very proud. Ron Ferrell needs prayers at Kings Grant. Martin encouraged residents to attend the annual Richard Sarver dinner on December 25.

Comments by City Manager – City Manager Towarnicki recognized Mark McCaskill who is the new Community Development Director. The City has been very fortunate for bringing on some outstanding new employees. United Way contributions were up from \$8,000 to 10,500. Employees volunteered last week to ring the bell for the Salvation Army for 3 days. Towarnicki referred back to the reversion studies stating that they look at current situations then project the outcome if those situations do not change. By dropping the Armory, adjusting EDC funding, turning the Housing office over to Danville, Start-Up Martinsville, savings on the Martinsville Mustangs, rate increases on utilities and cigarette tax, reduced staff, and the partnership with the YMCA have all made major impacts on those projections.

Comments by City Attorney – City Attorney Monday spoke as a City resident, not as an attorney, stating that it is time to stop playing “kick the can”. Reversion has been discussed, debated, multiple studies have been completed so he thanked Council for taking a vote in the best interest of residents.

There being no further business, Council Member Bowles made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Martin with all Council Members voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.

Karen Roberts
Clerk of Council

Kathy Lawson
Mayor